

## YOUTHCITY HIGHLIGHTS

### A Rising Star

By Dallas Russell

Carlie Brown has been student at Ottinger Hall since September 2006. Last school year she had the exciting opportunity to participate in her school play, but was very nervous. Even speaking in a group was difficult. To help her overcome her fears, Scott Curry, a professional director and actor—and Ottinger Hall staffer—coached Carlie on her lines until she began saying them with confidence. Staff members also reminded her about the acting classes she had taken in the YouthCity program, which gave her extra encouragement.

In addition to the acting experience, Carlie also had other confidence-building experiences at YouthCity. For example, she helped host the Winter Celebration, had a mask and a self-portrait puppet in an exhibit at the Women's Art Center, and became a peer council member.

The afternoon following the play, Carlie came to YouthCity beaming with pride over her experience. Later in the session Carlie's mom, Alisha, called the Ottinger Hall coordinator to thank her everything the staff had done for Carlie. She said that Carlie is a different person than when she started at YouthCity, and that her self-esteem has improved tremendously. She also said that Carlie would not have been able to be in the play if it wasn't for their help. One of Carlie's teachers was so impressed by her performance that she is trying to make arrangements for Carlie to receive a scholarship for a theater camp. On a side note, a photo of Carlie with her puppet "Little Carlie," appeared in the "Rotarian," the Rotary Club's national publication. Congratulations Carlie!



Carlie Brown with her self-portrait puppet, "Little Carlie."

### New Employee Makes Big Impact

By Lucy Smith

At Sorenson we have many successes, but one recent example is our newest staff member, Aleicia Peak. Aleicia started this spring as a seasonal group leader for the fifth and sixth grade after-school group. In the beginning, this group had some challenging dynamics. When Aleicia started, she stepped right up, took charge, and immediately began to turn the direction of the group around. She was able to do this in part, because of strong leadership skills and an optimistic outlook. With these traits in hand, she began to move the students in a positive and productive direction. Immediately Aleicia began programming experiential activities such as teambuilding, cultural learning, and activities focused on physical and emotional health. She also helped the group learn how to be more productive during academics and encouraged them to see learning as fun.

After a very successful session, Alecia was promoted in June. One of her new duties is to design electives. Alecia has added several exciting new electives to the schedule, including: learning about birds with HawkWatch, community service at the Food Bank, watershed education, and science-related activities.

Aleicia also had the sizable task of programming and managing Open Recreation. Open Recreation is an evening program that serves drop-in students in the community. Aleicia dove into this new adventure with grace and finesse. She quickly established a rapport with the students and starting doing such things as community service, healthy cooking, and fitness-related classes. The student in Open Recreation really like Aleicia and it definitely shows!

Overall, Aleicia is a valuable employee at the Sorenson Center. She is cheerful, positive, and passionate about serving the students in this community. We are happy to have her and look forward to a long, productive relationship. Welcome Aleicia!



Aleicia Peak brings enthusiasm and new ideas to the Sorenson Center.



Transforming bare metal racks into works of art.

### **Employment Program Beautifies City, Promotes Biking** By Angela Romero

This summer YouthCity, in partnership with the Salt Lake City's Transportation Division, is offering a Bike Rack Apprenticeship Program. The apprenticeship program is an exciting opportunity for young people to transform the city's traditional bare metal bike racks into works of art. Over an eight-week period, participants will beautify the downtown area and raise bicycle awareness. The youths will also learn design principles and painting techniques, as well as job skills.

A team of four apprentices are working with a YouthCity Artways instructor to design and paint 64 racks around downtown, using the location and businesses in the area to influence their choices. From solid colors to stripes and patterns, the youth apprentices will enhance their artistic abilities, while brightening up downtown.

Raanan Barach, one of the youth apprentices, is excited about the contributions he is making to his city. He hopes that the project will encourage other young people to ride their bikes and become more physically active. Program participants are also learning the meaning of teamwork. Lauren Maguire, another apprentice, has learned that she needs to step out of her comfort zone. Through this program, she has had the opportunity to meet other teens from different areas of the city and learn how to work with them in a constructive way.

### **Two Team Members Promoted to New Positions** By Janet Wolf, Director, Youth and Family Programs

Two YouthCity team members were recently promoted to new positions. Ken Perko replaces Dan Gerhart as the new YouthCity Artways director. Ken first came to our program as a YouthCity Artways teacher. He then moved on to become coordinator of YouthCity at Central City, where he oversaw tremendous growth in both the program and its partner relationships. Ken holds degrees from Vassar College and the University of Utah College of Fine Arts. Steve Alder filled Ken's position at Central City bringing experience from the Ottinger Hall and Liberty Park sites, where he worked as a program assistant for two years. Steve earned degree from Utah State University in English and Literary Studies. He also worked on the Utah State University press. Welcome Ken and Steve, YouthCity will benefit greatly from the experience and dedication you bring to your new positions.

## YOUTHCITY PROGRAM UPDATES

### YouthCity Summer @ Liberty Park – By Elizabeth Robinson

#### Recap

- The 2006-07 YouthCity After-School program ended on May 24 after nine successful months of enrichment activities. As the school year ended, it was easy to see progress both socially and academically in many of our program participants. Several of our older kids participated in the Operation Middle School class and created special projects (YouthCity clothing and pet drive) designed to benefit our community. Many of our middle school kids completed school projects at YouthCity using the technology available in our computer lab. We are pleased that these students can apply the skills they have learned at YouthCity in their schoolwork.
- The Liberty Park and Ottinger Hall Peer Councils met in April to plan joint field trips for both locations. The student councils planned enjoyable activities for both sites, including a wheels day, a butterfly photo catching festival, a Jell-O festival, and an end-of-session surprise party. YouthCity peer councils provide leadership opportunities and have created a place for our kids to stretch into new roles within their peer groups.
- One of the most successful classes offered at YouthCity is the Bike Bonanza class provided in partnership with the Salt Lake City Bicycle Collective. Bike Bonanza has been offered at the other YouthCity sites in the past, and was offered at Liberty Park for the first time during the Winter and Spring 2007 sessions. As expected, the class was a smashing success. Thanks to the Bicycle Collective, all of our kids have bikes, which provides a much-needed additional form of transportation for our program. Our kids are excited about riding bikes and take pride in maintaining their new set of wheels.

#### Looking Ahead

- This year marks our fifth summer program in Liberty Park and we are bursting at the seams with both kids and excitement. We are thrilled to have Jessica Mulvey and Colin Crebs, two YouthCity alumni, joining the Liberty Park team and working as Youth Facilitators this summer. They bring a refreshing flare and sincere dedication to the Liberty Park Team. Jessie and Colin, welcome to the land of grown ups!
- The 2007 YouthCity Summer Program began on Monday, June 11 with a record number of Salt Lake City children ages 9 to 14 attending the Liberty Park site. Sixty-two kids will spend their summer laughing and playing inside the sun-filled 90 acres of Liberty Park. This summer we are offering several of our most popular classes, guaranteed to delight and challenge any child. Skateboarding, Capoeira, Mask Making, Outdoor Adventure and Cultural Cooking are key elements to our summer program. In addition, the talented teaching staff has created Giant Games, Sidewalk Chalk Drawing, Social Dance and Photoshop Perfection to round out our summer schedule.
- Friday afternoons we spend five fun filled hours exploring Salt Lake City and everyone looks forward to our weekly field trips. This summer the Liberty Park kids will be racing around downtown Salt Lake City on a photo scavenger hunt, mastering both mental and physical challenges in YouthCity Fear Factor, and no summer is complete without slipping, sliding, dunking, and diving in various swimming pools.

## YouthCity Summer @ Central City – By Steve Alder

### Recap

- We are going through some changes at Central City as Ken Perko, who has been the program coordinator for three years, moved on to become director of YouthCity Artways. He will be sorely missed by the kids at Central City, who sent him off with a fond farewell during the end-of-the-school-year celebration.
- In the first session the youth enjoyed regular summertime favorites like swimming and skateboarding, and we also tried a few new classes. In Culture Club, the kids learned Latin dances like the Meringue and the Salsa. The kids also learned how to fry plantains, which they ate themselves and served to other classes.

### Looking Ahead

- This session, we have 64 participants enrolled and are offering a number of new classes. We have some very creative staff members who are able to offer fun and diverse learning opportunities. Survival Skills, which is taught by a new staff member Brent Bardo, is a big hit. Participants are learning how to splint an injured arm, build shelter out of branches, and even build a fire without matches.
- Our teen program is running on Tuesday nights from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Jason Dodson, a YouthCity Artways teacher, and Steve Alder record music and play basketball with teens ages 15 to 19.

## YouthCity @ Fairmont Park – By Andrew McCormick

### Recap

- The 2006-07 After-School program at Fairmont Park was our best session yet. Favorite classes included: Step Up (outdoor games), Spy Games, Car Creations, Cooking, Claymation, and a Tracy Aviary class.
- Our Spy Games class (originally called “Statistical Analysis”) involved solving puzzles, decoding messages, listening and studying details, taking pictures, and games in the park.
- Our celebration in May was a big success. We played a student versus parent dodge-ball game that the parents absolutely loved. The parents, out numbered three-to-one, tried their best and won one out of two games. We also showed our student videos, ate dinner and highlighted our other projects.

### Looking Ahead

- The Fairmont Summer Program is serving 53 youth—the largest enrollment in four years. We have upgraded to four classes per class period to accommodate the growth. It should be a great program with a lot of fun learning opportunities.
- We are running a Teacher Apprentice during the summer session, in which young adults help out in the program. In return, they learn teaching and employment skills.

## YouthCity Government – By Angela Romero

### Recap

- YouthCity Government presented the annual Youth State of the City Address before the City Council on May 8, which focused on environment, youth freedom forums and transportation.
- On May 22, the YCG Freedom Forum Subcommittee hosted their last forum for the year titled, *“The Freedom for Young People to Receive Honest Information about Sexuality.”* Panelists and attendees discussed the sex education curriculum used in public high schools.
- The YCG Environmental Subcommittee mailed letters to the Salt Lake City School Board and school administrators encouraging them to implement a comprehensive recycling program.

### Looking Ahead

- YouthCity Government will host the first annual North American Glocal Youth Parliament (GYP) Regional Retreat, August 16-19. The retreat will utilize Salt Lake City’s progressive environmental programs and policies to educate GYP members on how global change can be addressed at the local level. At the end of the retreat, participants will establish a regional environmental policy goal to pursue in their individual cities.

## YouthCity Artways – By Megan Davis Brown

### Recap

- YouthCity Artways wrapped up the 2006-2007 Imagination Celebration with an exhibit featuring 100 pieces of artwork from Imagination Celebration Family Workshops. The exhibit ran April 2-30 at the City & County Building.
- We have already received grants for next year’s Imagination Celebration from both the Utah Arts Council and **art works for kids**.
- YouthCity Artways recently introduced a new Pop-Up Bookmaking class at The City Library for fourth through eighth grade students. YouthCity Artways instructor and Marriot Library Book Arts Program artist, Louona Tanner teaches the class.

### Looking Ahead

- The Leonardo will run a five-week pilot program called “Workshopping The Leonardo” at The City Library beginning June 26. The program is designed to allow the public to “test, try and tweak” some of the visitor experience ideas being developed for The Leonardo. The activities will be designed and run by The Leonardo staff in partnership with YouthCity Artways, the Utah Science Center and the Center for Documentary Arts.
- Artwork from YouthCity classes will be on display at The City Library. The exhibit takes place in conjunction with the Utah Museum of Fine Arts’ special exhibit on pop-up books later this summer.

## Sorenson Center Sports – By Josh DeCola

### Recap

- Spring sports at Sorenson included Coach Pitch Baseball, T-Ball, Girls Softball, Soccer, Boxing and Karate. For the first time in a year, we offered Baseball and Softball. In addition to participating in the classes, youth were able to attend a Salt Lake Bees game.

### Looking Ahead

- During Summer Session, the sports program is offering a Soccer Camp (which include Major League Soccer camps), Basketball Camp, Basketball League, Coach Pitch Baseball, T-Ball, Tennis with Coach Mike’s Tennis Academy, and sports classes with the Sorenson Summer program and the Glendale summer program.

## Sorenson Center Computer Clubhouse – By Carole Costa

### Recap

- Clubhouse youth sprouted seedlings to prepare for the summer garden project and documented the whole germination process with the use of microscopes. Youth also planted vegetables and flowers donated by Wasatch Community Garden and the Liberty Park greenhouse.
- Thanks to a partnership with East High School counselors, English as a Second Language and computer technology teachers, high school seniors struggling to meet their computer technology graduation requirements will have the opportunity to get help at the clubhouse.
- Three clubhouse members participated in an exhibit sponsored by the Odense clubhouse in Denmark by having their artwork on display during the Danish Harbor Festival.

### Looking Ahead

- The clubhouse recently received a \$51,000 in-kind donation of hardware, software and peripherals. Clubhouse staff and volunteers are in the process of installing this state-of-the-art technology.
- We will be expanding our advertising and marketing program with tote bags, caps, and t-shirt designs. A fashion show project with the Ramallah clubhouse in Palestine is also in the planning stages.